

Application No. 10/069,954
Response dated December 22, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 22, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

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Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (new): A method of detecting and removing a shell residue left in a shellfish flesh portion, comprising:

irradiating a light onto a shellfish flesh portion after finishing a shell-stripping work, thereby emitting a fluorescent light more from the shell residue than from the shellfish flesh portion;

detecting the fluorescent light emitted from the shell residue; and

removing the shell residue.

Claim 10 (new): A method of detecting and removing a shell residue left in a shellfish flesh portion according to claim 9, wherein the fluorescent light is detected by taking an image of the shellfish flesh portion with a CCD camera.

Claim 11 (new): A method of detecting and removing a shell residue left in a shellfish flesh portion according to claim 9, wherein the shellfish flesh portion comes from shrimp, and wherein the light has a wavelength of not more than 400nm.

Claim 12 (new): A method of detecting and removing a shell residue left in a shellfish

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flesh portion according to claim 9, wherein the shellfish flesh portion comes from crab, and wherein the light has a wavelength of not more than 400nm.

Claim 13 (new) A method of detecting and removing a shell residue left in a shellfish flesh portion according to claim 9, wherein the light is an excitation light.

Claim 14 (new) A method of detecting and removing a shell residue left in a shellfish flesh portion according to claim 9, wherein the fluorescent light is detected through a filter, and wherein the filter absorbs the irradiated light and passes the emitted fluorescent light.

Claim 15 (new): An apparatus for detecting and removing a shell residue left in a shellfish flesh portion, comprising:

a light source for irradiating a light onto a shellfish flesh portion after finishing a shell-stripping work, thereby emitting a fluorescent light more from the shell residue than from the shellfish flesh portion;

a detecting means for detecting the fluorescent light emitted from the shell residue; and

a means for removing the shell residue detected.

Claim 16 (new): An apparatus for detecting and removing a shell residue left in a shellfish flesh portion according to claim 15, further comprising a CCD camera for taking an image of the

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shellfish flesh portion to detect the fluorescent light.

Claim 17 (new): An apparatus for detecting and removing a shell residue left in a shellfish flesh portion according to claim 15, wherein the fluorescent light is detected through a filter, and wherein the filter absorbs the irradiated light and passes the emitted fluorescent light.